

RQ-2



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 12, 2004

Sarah Brown, Treasurer
Ohio State Central & Executive Committee
211 S. Fifth Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Response Due Date:
June 11, 2004

Identification Number: C00162339

Reference: Year End Report (12/01/03-12/31/03)

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "STAFF LIFE INSURANCE", "STAFF PAYROLL" and "HOUSING ALLOWANCE-4 MONTHS". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated.